

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 DHA-02 DIWY-01 PA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1443

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ESCAP, SHUM

SUBJ: INAUGURATION OF ESCAP CENTER FOR WOMEN AND DEVELOP-
MENT

1. ESCAP CENTER FOR WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT WAS INAUGURATED IN TEHRAN AT CEREMONY FEBRUARY 27 ATTENDED BY PRINCESS ASHRAF, ESCAP EXECUTIVE SECRETARY J.B.P. MARAMIS AND OFICIALS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. CEREMONY TOOK PLACE AT MAJLIS SHORAYE MELLI (LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT). STAFF FOR CENTER WILL SETTLE INTO PERMANENT QUARTERS DOWNTOWN TEHRAN AFTER IRANIAN NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS IN LATTER PART OF MARCH.

2. INAUGURATION DATE PURPOSELY COINCIDED WITH THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S ACQUISITION OF POLITICAL RIGHTS IN IRAN AND THE TWO IRANIAN SPEAKERS, PRINCESS ASHRAF AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS NAHNAZ AFKHAMI, STRESSED THE ANNIVERSARY IN THEIR REMARKS. PRINCESS ASHRAF NOTED THAT LOCATION OF CENTER IN TEHRAN, "DEMONSTRATES IRAN'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONCEPT OF EQUALITY RECOGNIZED THROUGH-
OUT THE WORLD."

3. EXSEC MARAMIS THANKED THE GOI, AND SPECIFICALLY PRINCESS ASHRAF, FOR SUPPORT FOR THE CENTER AND PLEDGED ESCAP
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COOPERATION FOR THE NEW VENTURE. HE NOTED THAT NO QUICK CURE-ALL EXISTED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE ESCAP REGION BUT THAT IN INDIGENOUS APPROACH SHOULD BE SOUGHT BY EACH COUNTRY TO RESPOND TO ITS PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. HE ANNOUNCED THE INTERIM APPOINTMENT OF ELIZABETH REID, AN AUSTRALIAN, AS THE CENTER'S FIRST DIRECTOR. MS. REID WAS THE FIRST TO HOLD THE POST OF WOMEN'S ADVISOR IN AN

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, A POSITION ESTABLISHED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM. HER TENURE WILL BE TEMPORARY SINCE ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN OF SIMILAR RANK IS SERVING IN AN ESCAP CENTER IN TOKYO AND EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTS THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORS IN THIS CASE.

4. CENTER OBJECTIVES INCLUDE INFORMATION EXCHANGE, RESEARCH AND TRAINING OF WOMEN IN THE ESCAP REGION. IT WILL HAVE A SMALL STAFF INITIALLY AND WILL HAVE A LIAISON RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF IRAN. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF FUNDING DURING THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM BUT MARAMIS TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE PREFERRED TO WAIT FOR CENTER TO BECOME ESTABLISHED AND "DEMONSTRATE SOME POSITIVE RESULTS" BEFORE SEEKING ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.
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Message Attributes

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